

Gallaudet Fact—

Q. One wall of the Chapel Hall auditorium boasts busts of a young Edward Miner Gallaudet, an older Gallaudet, and which other figure from the University's history?

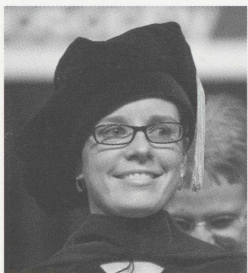
- A. President Abraham Lincoln
- B. President James Garfield
- C. Sophia Fowle Gallaudet
- D. Senator Charles Sumner

Answer on page 2

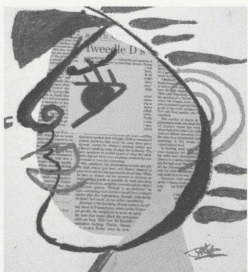


The Office of the President and Academic Affairs hosted their annual retirement reception on May 7 to recognize and show appreciation for the many years of service and friendship the campus community has shared with this year's retirees. Pictured with President Davila and Provost Stephen Weiner at the reception are (from left): top row—Dr. Julia Bertak (29 years), Dr. Walter Trafton (32 years), Dr. Virginia Gutman (27 years), Robert C. Johnson (24 years); middle row—Russell Olson (37 years), Dr. George Ivey (26 years), Margaret Reichard (28 years), Debra Brenner (31 years), Sheryl Johnson (31 years), Karen Dickerson (31 years); bottom row—Amy Quaynor (three years), Rene Newman (30 years), Marilyn Farmer (32 years), and Judith Berglund (30 years). Other retirees this year are: Dr. Edward Beasley (47 years), Dr. Marcia Boráman (38 years), Leslie Brewer (22 years), Mr. John Canney (35 years), Dr. Cathryn Carroll (28 years), Dr. Howard Egan (36 years), Dr. Ellen Funayama (five years), Denise Hanlon (21 years), Thomas Harrington (34 years), Pearl Hawkins (40 years), Dr. Katherine Jankowski (11 years), Dr. Thomas Jones (26 years), Judith LeNard (38 years), Holly Roth (20 years), Betty Royal (27 years), Paul Singletary (24 years), Vivian Stevens (26 years), and Patricia Yates (29 years).

IN THIS ISSUE



Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi receives her hood and doctor of philosophy degree.



A painting created by MSSD students during a lesson from students in the course "Picasso and His Milieu" co-taught by Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky and Dr. Marguerite Glass.



Actor Jeff Daniels, one of the stars of *Sweet Nothing in My Ear*, at a May 7 screening of the film.

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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Gallaudet 'has stood strong because of the students it educates,' Davila tells graduates

Almost on cue, the torrential rain that soaked the region on May 16 ceased in the early afternoon, the sun breaking through to smile on the Class of 2008 as it marched into the Field House for Gallaudet's 139th Commencement exercises.

President Davila congratulated the 337 newest alumni on one of the most important accomplishments in their lives—earning a Gallaudet degree. He said that new graduates like themselves are the reason Gallaudet "has stood strong for 144 years—not because of the brick buildings or the concrete sidewalks. No, it has stood strong because of the students it educates and sends out into the world to make it a better place."

Commencement was also an occasion to honor a number of outstanding individuals for their contributions to Gallaudet, to the field of higher education, and to the deaf community. Honorary doctoral degrees were conferred by Dr. Davila to Ed Bosson, known as "the father of video relay service," whose vision and contributions to make this technology available has empowered deaf people around the world; Charles Williams, co-founder of National Black Deaf Advocates and a member of the University's Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2007, who has been a staunch advocate to deaf people of color through his long career as a leader,

activist, and teacher; and Dr. Donald Langenberg, chancellor emeritus of the 13-member University System of Maryland and the son of Gallaudet alumni. Langenberg delivered the Commencement address.

Davila introduced this year's professors emeriti, Dr. Virginia Gutman and Dr. John Van Cleve. Gutman, who had a 30-year career at Gallaudet, served as chair of the Psychology Department from 2001 until her retirement this year, and developed the clinical psychology doctoral program, which is credited for giving countless deaf people and their families access to high quality psychological services. Van Cleve taught in the History Department for 30 years and is a founder of the field of deaf history. In addition, he held several major administrative posts, including director of the Gallaudet University Press and Information Technology Services. Davila also recognized, in absentia, Jean Berube, assistant professor in the Physical Education and Recreation Department and director of the Discovery Program, as the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award.

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Members of the English Language Institute Student Organization (ELISO) present President Davila with a gift—a poster featuring the students' photos and signatures—to thank him for his support of International Awareness Week 2008, held in April. The ELISO representatives (from left) are: Chang-Hsein Tsai (Taiwan), treasurer I; Song-Hoa Choi (South Korea), secretary I; Johanna Katz (Argentina); Natsumi Kanno (Japan); Poloko Qobose (Botswana), president; Evgeny Bogolyubov (Russia), treasurer II; Jung-Sun An (South Korea), senator I; Mohammadreza Zahmati (Iran); and Ikumi Kawamata (Japan), secretary II.

Soukup reports on Board of Trustees meeting

(The following is an email sent to the campus community from Board of Trustees Chair Ben Soukup on May 23)

Dear Campus Community:

In addition to the Commencement ceremonies held last week, the Board of Trustees met for two and a half days to address a number of extremely important issues. Topics such as recruitment, retention, and graduation rates; the future composition of the student population; the importance of sign language and other communication modalities; academic preparation; faculty research activities and overall strategic planning; improved communication with faculty; non-voting representation on the board's Academic Affairs committee; and shared governance in general were all discussed with great interest.

President Davila took the opportunity to extend his appreciation to the board for what he called the "essential" role it has played in helping Gallaudet's response to the concerns of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as the University has sought reaffirmation of its accreditation.

Some of the highlights of the board meeting included the president's special reception and luncheon with Commencement honorees, the Graduate Hooding ceremony and reception and,

of course, graduation exercises and the presentation of the University's Class of 2008. We were equally pleased with our speakers, Dr. Donald Langenberg and fellow board member Dr. Richard Ladner, both of whom are CODAs and sons of Gallaudet alumni. Their remarks about changing technology and the future of our community were insightful, thought provoking, and inspirational. Finally, honorary doctorate degrees were bestowed upon Dr. Ed Bosson, Dr. Langenberg, and Dr. Charles Williams. Congratulations to all of our graduates and honorees!

I'd like to share these actions taken by the trustees during the board meeting:

- Approved tenure recommendations for Dr. Beth Benedict, Mr. Raymond Merritt, and Dr. Deborah Pichler.
- Approved the terms and conditions of the president's employment contract, which ends in December of 2009.
- Approved a preliminary FY 2009 operating budget, including preliminary approval of a limit of 4 percent on pay increases, and tabled a proposed preliminary tuition/room fee

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Commencement

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In his introduction of the Commencement speaker, Davila said he was “personally indebted” to Langenberg for making himself available to share his advice and expertise when Davila became Gallaudet’s ninth president. “He told me once that he committed himself to helping Gallaudet because he deeply appreciated the education his parents received here,” said Davila.

Langenberg began his address by showing a photo taken around 1927 of his parents as young Gallaudet graduates about to embark into the world to start careers and raise a family. “I’d love to know what they thought lay ahead of them when this photograph was taken,” he mused. The future held both joys and sorrows for the couple and for the nation: the Great Depression, World War II, the birth of four children—three of whom died at birth, and beautiful days enjoying nature in North Dakota and Minnesota.

The unknown looms before the Class of 2008 as well, said Langenberg, and he pointed to trends that have the potential

to shape their lives. For example, the status of most powerful nation in the world that the United States gained after the second world war, and which carries on to the present, “won’t last much longer,” said Langenberg, because other nations are quickly joining the U.S. How will the nation adapt to its new global position? Advances in technology mean enormous progress in genetic neurological sciences, but could result in unexpected means such as making deafness much rarer than it is now. What would this mean for the future of the deaf community? Even in the workplace, the evolution of communication technology is creating a new society of what he calls “functional nomads,” employees who rarely, if ever, see an office or co-workers, working via cell phone and laptop computer at locations that could conceivably be half way around the world from their employer. Does this spell the end of cities or suburbs as places to live and work?

Regardless of what the future holds, Langenberg said he knows from the example set by his parents that Gallaudet graduates are well suited to cope with and even shape the world. “I am confident that this great University has pre-

pared you for almost any challenge,” he said.

Representing the undergraduate class at Commencement was Megan Klusza, who shared a favorite saying: “Life rewards actions.” The words have “helped define my dreams and hopes,” she said, not the least of these being a newly-minted graduate of Gallaudet. She pointed to Davila as a great example of the saying’s validity. Since he became president, she said, “Because of his actions at Gallaudet, things are changing. They are healthy and positive changes and the kind of changes we have needed for some time. ... As we leave, the future is bright for Gallaudet for years to come.” Klusza talked about how she was empowered coming to the University after being the only deaf student in her high school. She knew that Gallaudet was the place for her after attending an open house and sitting in on an “Introduction to Psychology” course taught by Dr. Dennis Galvan: “I understood more in one hour in his class than I learned all semester” from a course she took at a community college. She urged her classmates to “represent Gallaudet well” as they go out into the world. “I

guarantee you that there will be a number of children who will come to Gallaudet because of you,” she said.

Lakshmi (Sasha) Ponappa, who represented the graduate students, told about coming to New York from her native India at age 2, where it was discovered that she is deaf. “In America I have had the opportunities that I would never have experienced if I lived in India.” She came to the University in 2006 “with an insular understanding of things,” said Ponappa, but her experience at Gallaudet has given her the tools for leadership, empowerment, advocacy, and social change. Ponappa also shared with her classmates words that have inspired her—a quote from Gandhi: “Be the change that you want to see in the world.” The Gallaudet experience has made those words possible. “We all contributed, collectively and individually, in different ways with the goal of making this University a better place. By contributing, we affirmed our belief in ourselves, the future, and the Gallaudet vision. ... Gallaudet has taught us well, and we will make the right choices to improve ourselves and the world at large.” ■

Soukup

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increase of 3 percent for students. In addition, approved the FY 2010 budget priorities as proposed by the University Budget Committee.

- Approved proposed Faculty Guidelines changes regarding American Sign Language and the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI).
- Approved revisions to policies in the Administration and Operations Manual regarding the University’s Code of Conduct, workplace violence, acceptance of private gifts, use of Information Technology resources, background investigations, and the reporting of suspected misconduct (a.k.a. the newly implemented “whistleblower policy”).
- Approved the appointment of two new board members, whose names will be announced pending their acceptance. Also voted to renew the terms of trustees whose terms expire this month.
- Passed resolutions honoring former board members Christopher Sullivan and Pamela Holmes.

During the meeting, we reviewed reports from the 34-member Board of Associates and Development Office activities resulting in an additional \$6.8 million being raised for the University thus far in 2008. This is an astounding feat and one that we should all be extremely impressed with. We extend heartfelt thanks for the steadfast support of our alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Gallaudet.

On a related note, we were pleased to meet Mr. Paul Drehoff, the new vice president of Institutional Advancement, and were impressed with his background and past accomplishments. We are confident that great things are in store for the University with his involvement. We also received presentations by the Citi Institutional Consulting group on the current status of the University’s investments, as well as Hammond & Associates on its institutional fund management and consultation services. All in all, our endowment, assets, and capital campaigns seem to be performing as well as



Keeping the Promise of Educating Deaf Black Males at Gallaudet University, a program whose goal is the retention and graduation of black deaf males, sponsored an end of the school year BBQ April 22 on Faculty Row. Organizations that were invited to take part in the fellowship, fun, and games included the Mentoring Program, Asian Pacific Association, Latino Organization, Black Deaf Student Union, and International Club. ABOVE (from left): alumnae Jenelle Thomas and Baranda Johnson and Johnson’s daughter, Zanobia, and friends and family members enjoy the picnic.

can be expected.

As always, the board very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with students while on campus. The issues that pertain to the elementary students at Kendall School all the way through to our graduate students at the University are all very important to us. Having an opportunity to meet with them, learn about their experiences, and contemplate the ramifications of policies, operating procedures, and other environmental factors are extremely important. In fact, it is probably THE most important thing. In everything we do, we should always put the needs and welfare of our students first. You don’t have to be a scholar in academia to know that the lifeblood of any educational institution is ALWAYS the students, for without them there is no need for our programs, our faculty, our administration, or our board.

We received additional presentations from President Davila regarding current and projected administrative issues. He outlined the need to initiate a long range strategic plan and has proposed engaging the University’s constituencies in formulating plans. He will present the trustees with more information in July. We also entertained presentations regarding the Capital City redevelopment project adjacent to the University’s campus, a report

from University’s audit firm, Grant Thornton, regarding newly revised reporting requirements for IRS form 990, and finally, an update regarding the National Deaf Education programs at the Clerc Center.

The board continued discussions regarding the search for Gallaudet’s 10th president, and we have agreed to hold a special summer retreat, July 28-29, to focus on this issue as well as long range strategic planning. Again, we are committed to designing a search that will involve the entire campus community through every step of the way. The feedback provided by the recent Task Force to Review the Presidential Search has been invaluable, and we again extend a personal appreciation to each task force member for his or her participation. More information about the presidential search process will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

In closing, I look forward to continuing our work with the entire Gallaudet community so that we can make a better and brighter future for ALL deaf and hard of hearing people.

Sincerely,
Ben Soukup
Chair ■

Gallaudet Fact—

Answer: B.

President James Garfield. This supporter of Gallaudet made the last public speech of his six- and-a-half month stint as commander in chief on Kendall Green in May of 1881. He was shot in an assassination attempt in July and was bed ridden until September, when he died of complications related to the bullet wound.

Sources: Britannica.com; *History of the College for the Deaf 1857-1907*, by Edward Miner Gallaudet

Ask Cousin Sally

Got a question for Cousin Sally? Send it to cousin.sally@gallaudet.edu.

ON THE GREEN

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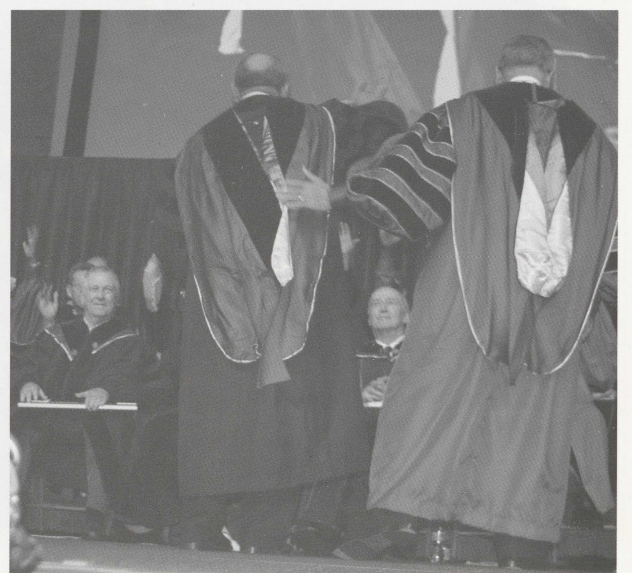
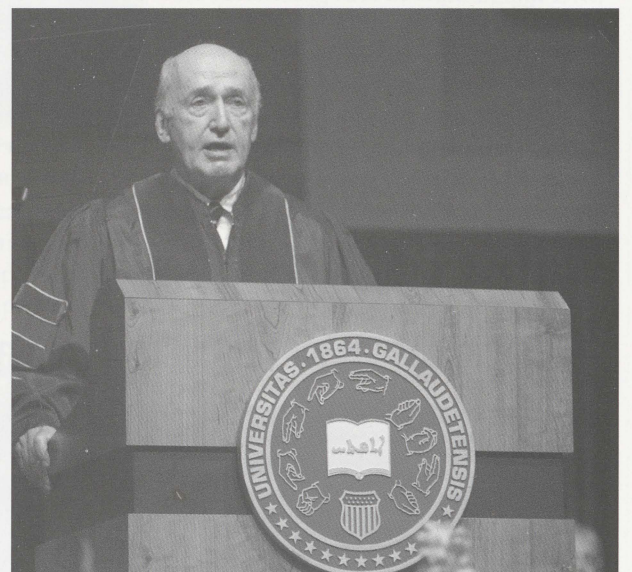
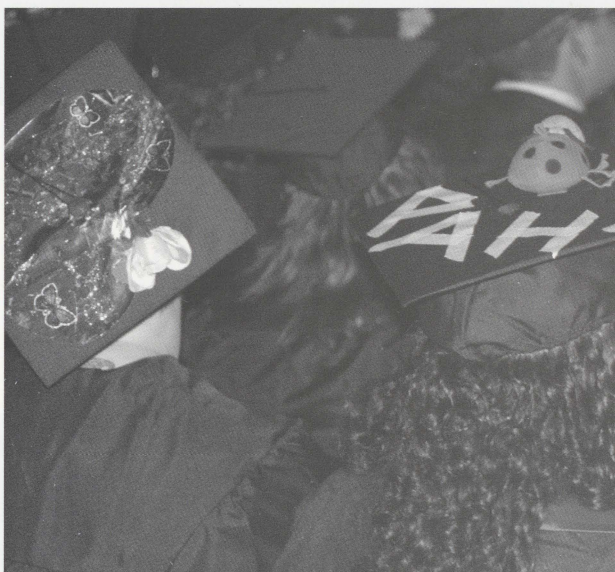
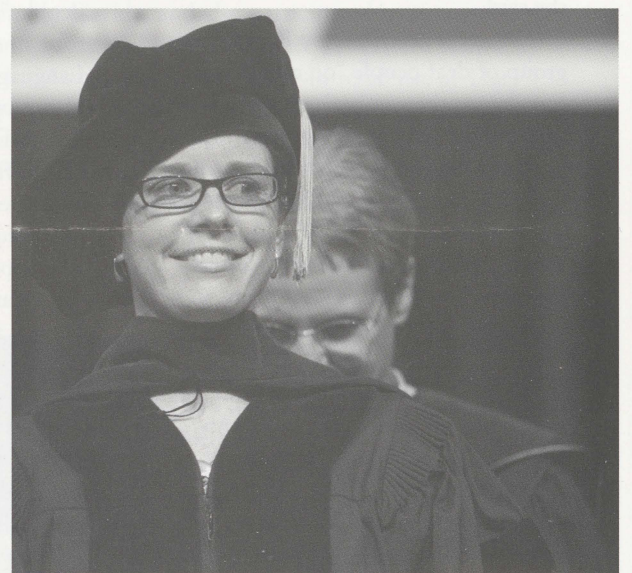
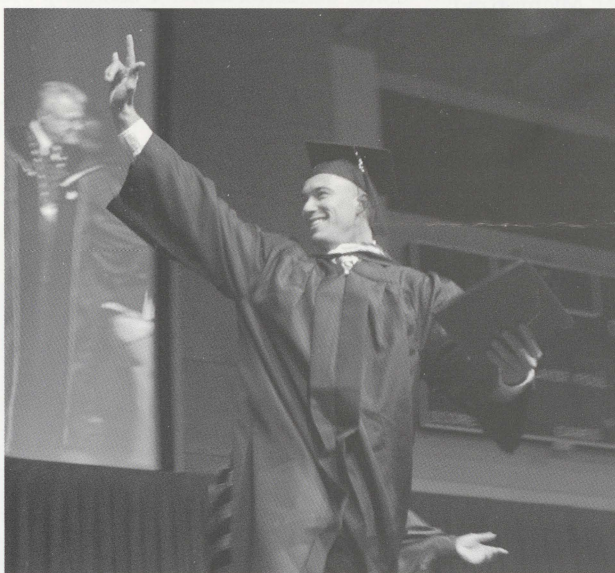
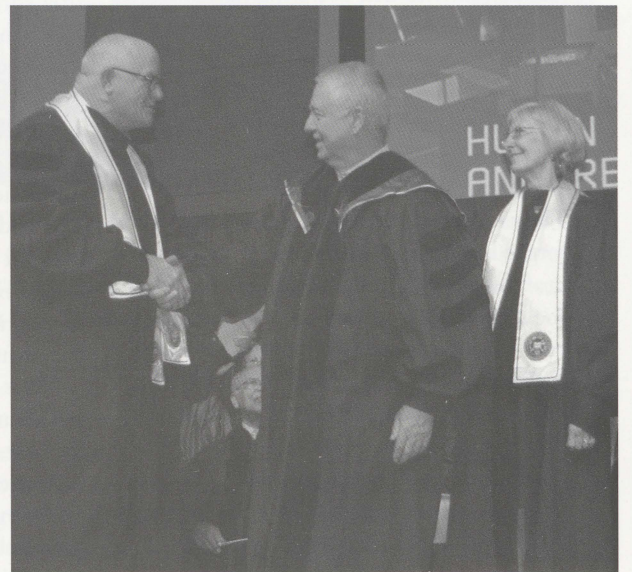
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Scenes from Commencement 2008

(Left to right, by row) Graduate Matthew Gilsbach proudly stands with Dr. Lillie Ransom, an associate professor of Communication Studies. Professor Edward Beasley of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department carries the Gallaudet University mace for the final time before his retirement. Board of Trustees members Richard Kinney and Cheryl Heppner congratulate Edward Bosson (center), widely known as the "Father of Video Relay Service," on his honorary doctor of humane letters degree conferred upon him at Commencement. Graduate student Davis Dyke flashes a triumphant "I love you" as he walks across the stage with his degree. Graduate Candace Jones receives flowers and an embrace after the Commencement ceremony. Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi receives her hood and doctor of philosophy degree. Two of the creatively decorated mortarboards at the Commencement exercises featured an artist's palette and a ladybug perched on one edge. Graduates march into the Field House. Dr. Donald Langenberg, chancellor emeritus of the 13-member University System of Maryland and the son of Gallaudet alumni, delivers the Commencement address (Langenberg also recived an honorary doctor of letters degree.) Undergraduate speaker Megan Klusza explains why she cherishes her Gallaudet memories. Graduate speaker Lakshmi (Sasha) Ponappa shares her life story and advice with the Class of 2008. Dr. Davila presents honorary doctorate of humane letters recipient Charles Williams, a community activist and former member of the Board of Trustees, with a framed citation of his accomplishments.



Bilingualism through theory and experience

Gallaudet's mission is to be "a bilingual, diverse, multicultural institution of higher education that ensures the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf and hard of hearing individuals through American Sign Language and English."

This has led to questions and considerations for the campus community. How does education through ASL and English drive Gallaudet's overall goals? How is bilingualism on campus defined, and why is it so prominent in the university's mission? What does it mean to each student, and each faculty and staff member? Two presentations during the spring 2008 semester allowed community members to address these questions—and pose new ones.

On March 26, Dr. Robert Johnson of the Department of Linguistics took a careful look at the concept behind the term. "The ways in which we have been imaging bilingualism are not productive," Johnson said, and declared it was time to test new perspectives.

Now is a good time to do this, considering that the mission has moved the University from what Johnson calls de facto bilingualism to official bilingualism. Americans are familiar with this issue thanks to the recent influx of Spanish speaking people, and the resulting de facto bilingualism in many parts of the U.S. has provoked a debate. Native English speakers worry that immigrants will not learn America's national language, and that having dual languages will be divisive. The same concern, Johnson said, has been applied to ASL/English environments.

Johnson argued that Gallaudet must "re-imagine" bilingualism from the perspective of communicative and educational needs rather than ethical or political viewpoints. In other words, using ASL in the classroom is not just what professors ought to do, but what will be the most accessible, inclusive, and beneficial for everyone.

Not every policy will serve all purposes, and a new way of thinking will not instantly melt the tensions, Johnson said. However, Gallaudet cannot trudge on

with the same conceptions. Johnson's suggestion is to re-imagine the concept of bilingualism in a way that is brave, honest, evidence-based, and consistent. He went on to present a pyramid model of a multilingual University, with a base of University administration and services, and sturdy walls of educational content and scholarly inquiry; instructional languages and cultures; other languages and cultures; and faculty, staff, and student training, support, and evaluation. In this way, the imaginings of a successful multilingual educational environment can become concrete.

On April 10, a standing-room-only crowd gathered for the panel discussion "Bilingualism and Future Generations of Gallaudet Students," moderated by graduate student Summer Crider. At the start of the panel, Department of ASL and Deaf Studies professor H-Dirksen Bauman explained a change in the demographics of deaf students, noting that mainstreamed students and students with cochlear implants are making up more of the population and the ratio of oral programs to sign language programs is increasing.

The focus of the panel discussion was the impact of bilingualism on the changing student body. The panel included undergraduates Daniel DiDonna and Nicole LaMont; John McGinty, who was completing his senior co-op internship for Northeastern University at Gallaudet; Dr. Lauri Rush, director of Gallaudet's Mental Health Center; Dr. Gina Oliva, a professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation; and Jennifer Drew, a teacher in a bilingual classroom at the Kendall School.

Each panelist was asked to share insights based on their experiences related to the new generation of Gallaudet students, especially those with cochlear implants, those who come from mainstream schools, and new signers, and how this new generation perceives the term "bilingual university."

Dr. Bauman said that the dialogue on bilingualism will continue over the coming semesters. ■



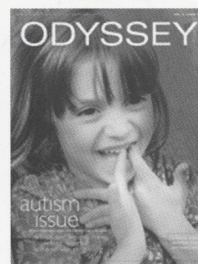
Photos by Tracy Stein

These pieces of art were created by MSSD students taught by University students taking the course "Picasso and his Milieu," led by Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky, a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and Dr. Marguerite Glass, Art Department chair. In this course, students completed a service learning project by teaching history and painting techniques to MSSD art students and then sharing their experiences at the Community Research and Learning Network (CoRAL) conference held April 9 at the University of D.C. Panelists at the CoRAL conference were Berdichevsky, Glass, University students Breanna Baker, Adam Johnson, and Erika Ruth, MSSD art teacher Heather Withrow, and MSSD students Domonic Gordine and Oana Hunter

Clerc Center Happenings

Spring/summer 'Odyssey' focuses on coexistence between deafness and autism

By Mary Ellen Carew



The spring/summer issue of the Clerc Center's *Odyssey* magazine explores aspects of autism in deaf children. In their first person narratives, Dr. Mei Yeh-Kennedy and Stefanie Ellis-Gonzales, both Gallaudet graduates and mothers of deaf children with autism, reveal the heartbreak this disorder brings to families.

Janet Weinstock and Rosangela George, also mothers of deaf children with autism, played a key role in helping to bring this issue to the awareness of subscribers across the country. George is also the founder of Deaf Autreat, whose initial gathering in 2006 was a seminal experience for both deaf and hearing parents. George's child, Caleb, is featured in an article by Iowa educators Lee Ann Bradley, Brandi Krakowski, and Ann Thiessen, about what works in their school for students with autism.

Gallaudet faculty members Dr. Patrick Brice, Dr. Margery Miller, and Dr. Diane Morton (emerita), and graduate student Christen Szymanski also contributed articles. They were joined by Miller's co-author, Dr. E. Sumi Funayama of Ohio, and Dr. Annie Steinberg of the University of Pennsylvania Department of Psychology.

Odyssey would like to take this opportunity to thank its student models for their generosity and willingness to help illustrate this important issue. Their enthusiasm proves that everyone in the Gallaudet community—even its youngest members—are willing to help share important information about deaf and hard of hearing people across the U.S. ■



Department of Business (DOB) Chair Khadijat Rashid presents the Deaf Businessperson of the Year Award to Gary Viall on April 30 during the DOB's annual Business After Hours program. To be recognized for the award, the person must be deaf or hard of hearing, epitomize best business practices, and must have exemplary character and a reputation for being ethical. Viall recently retired as senior accountant with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), where he served for 41 years. He was a valuable resource person for the deaf/hard of hearing community by giving SBA pre-business

workshops around the country, writing articles on small business in *The NAD Broadcaster*, and making referrals for potential deaf business owners to SBA's district offices. Viall is a co-founder of Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons and a past president of the Virginia Association of the Deaf. In addition, having graduated from Gallaudet in 1967 with a B.S. in accounting and in 1984 with an MBA in management, Viall has continued to support his alma mater by contributing his time and knowledge to the Department of Business. The Business After Hours program also included the popular Sutcliffe Business Bowl, a highly competitive match among an initial field of 20 contestants that tested their business acumen. The first-place winner was Jonathan Chanin, a senior computer information systems major. Second place went to Robert Siebert, a freshman business major, and third place to Timothy Putt, a senior history major.



Members of the University Club Task Force pose for a photo at a club gathering held in the Alumni House on May 8. They are (from left): task force co-chairs Dr. Rachel Hartig, a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and Dr. H-

Dirksen Bauman, a professor in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies; Dr. Richard Lytle, special assistant to the president; and Mark Amisshah, presidential leadership fellow. Also on the committee are Agnes Muse, Human Resources benefits specialist; Rebecca Hogan, director of the Academic Affairs personnel unit; Bonnie Simmons, administrative assistant in the Office of the President; Dr. William Marshall, a professor in the Department of Administration and Supervision; and Earl Parks, director of Academic Technology. At this social event, which promoted collegiality, the task force collected faculty and staff members' thoughts and suggestions in a survey. They learned that 100 percent of the respondents wanted to see University Club activities continue. The Task Force will consider the other survey results and let the community know about future plans.



Centerpieces from buffet tables at the President's Recognition Reception on May 15 show some of the iconic images of different areas of the United States. The reception for Gallaudet community members and University supporters highlighted the geographical diversity of Gallaudet students with different culinary fare at various stations, each based on a different region of the country or the international community. Each station included information about the students from that area. President Davila, in his remarks to the attendees, called the time since the previous Commencement "a year of transformation." He then introduced a video created by TV and Media Services that showed scenes from Gallaudet's history and personal stories of what Gallaudet means to current students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Davila thanked each of the guests for taking part in the changes.

Among Ourselves

Larry Musa, global education program specialist in the Office of International Programs and Services and a former coach affiliated with the United States' Deaf Soccer team, recently received the first Cyber Eagles Yemi Tella Award, reserved for "Nigeria's best football fan," based on sacrifice and selfless service. The award is named in memory of renowned Nigerian soccer coach Yemi Tella, who died last October. Musa was honored for single-handedly opening The Duglu School for the Deaf in the spring of 2006 in one of his mother's houses in his native Nigeria, and paying the solitary teacher a year's salary in advance. Musa's initial plan was to start the school by teaching 15 deaf children in the village of Duglu. However, word of the school quickly got around and, within a month, 32 students from surrounding villages were enrolled. The money that comes with the Yemi Tella Award will go toward hiring another teacher for the school. Musa's hope is that the state government will recognize the vital need the school is serving and take over its operations. To read the full story, go to www.nigeriavillagesquare.com/index.php/content/view/9185/55.

Mary Thornley, an ESL trainer with the English Language Institute, has been named one of the winners of the NTID/RIT Deaf Theme Literary Contest for her memoir "Lost Atlantis." Thornley's work will appear at www.rit.edu/litcontest. The award letter sent to Thornley notes: "... Your work communicates the feeling of alienation that Deaf children from hearing families often experience, yet you do it with the implication that Deaf children have secret worlds that others are not able to see, worlds that have secret ancestors and secret stories."

Eloise Molock, director of Community Liaison and Commuter Programs, is the recipient of the 2008 Visionary Woman Award from her alma mater, Bowie State University. The award was presented to her in celebration of Women's History Month on March 28 at the Annual Women of Vision Appreciation Ball, where she shared her perspectives and insights on this year's theme, "Everyday Women Making a Difference."

The April 20 edition of *The Washington Post* ran a mention in its "Book World" section about "Moon on the Meadow: Collected Poems" (Gallaudet University Press), by **Dr. Pia Taavila**, a professor in the English Department. The book consists of 126 poems spanning 30 years of writing. Many of the poems have been published in literary journals and quarterlies. Taavila, who is on sabbatical, is at work on a new collection which has 41 poems thus far. In January, she attended the Key West Literary Seminar in Florida, and also participated in a poetry workshop given by Kentucky Poet Laureate Jane Gentry Vance at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. In March, Taavila was writer-in-residence at The Vermont Studio Center, having won an Artist's Award. She is also a featured poet in the spring issue of the online journal www.poetrymagazine.com. In May, Taavila gave a reading at The Bear River Writers' Conference in Walloon Lake, Mich., and in July she will do the same at the Sewanee Writers' Conference at the University of the South in Tennessee.



Photo by Rick Guidotti

Monique Holt (fourth from left), presidential fellow and adjunct professor in the Theatre Arts Department, co-stars in the play *Inside/Out... voices from the disability community*, which will preview at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Astoria, N.Y., on June 13 and can be seen at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. June 27 to 29. Other cast members pictured (from left, in foreground) are: Blair Wing, Christopher Imbrosciano, Vivian Jenkins, and Zazel O'Garra. Also pictured (standing behind the cast) are Josh Hecht (left) theater director, and Matthew Joffe, director of LaGuardia Community College/Office for Students with Disabilities. VSA arts commissioned Ping Chong and Company to create *Inside/Out*, described as an oral history production that explores first-hand experiences of the disability community through personal narratives.

Pepco donates smoke alarms

(Note: this article is based on a Pepco press release.)

Pepco, the electric company serving the Washington, D.C. area, has donated more than 800 smoke alarms to the District of Columbia's Fire Department, as well as 30 visual fire alarms to be used in homes with deaf residents near Gallaudet.

The company presented the gift at an April 24 event on campus whose attendees included D.C. Fire Chief Dennis Rubin and several high-ranking officers and Gallaudet officials.

"We appreciate what our community partners do for the University," said Provost Stephen Weiner. "The safety of our off-campus students, as well as of Gallaudet faculty and staff who live in the city, is paramount, and we are appreciative of the efforts of the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Pepco to ensure their safety."

"We see this as a 'win-win' situation, and if those alarms result in preventing even one tragedy, the program will have been well worth it," said Pete Pedersen, who heads Pepco's Emergency Service Partnership Program (ESPP).

The donation was in keeping with the close working relationship the company has established with fire, police, and other emergency responders in recent years through the ESPP. Pepco also has contributed to scholarship funds and programs at Gallaudet for many years, and company executives have served on the University's Board of Associates. ■



Photos by Sam Kittner/Hallmark

To celebrate the launch of the Hallmark Movie Channel HD (high-definition), Hallmark invited members of the Gallaudet community to a private reception and screening of the movie *Sweet Nothing in My Ear* on May 7 at the National Cable and Telecommunications Association's theater on Capitol Hill. The movie, a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was originally broadcast April 20 on CBS. Academy Award winner Marlee Matlin and Jeff Daniels, the stars of the movie, were surprise guests at the event. The movie tells the story of a family—a deaf mother and a hearing father—and their struggle over whether or not to have their eight-year-old deaf son get a cochlear implant. Gallaudet alumni Ed Waterstreet, Phyllis Frelich, and Shoshanna Stern also appear in the movie, and alumna Linda Bove served as the movie's ASL/deaf culture consultant. Other deaf actors in the movie include Noah Valencia and Deanne Bray. Immediately following the screening, Matlin presented to the group about her own life experiences. (ABOVE) Provost Stephen Weiner (right) chats with Daniels at the reception before the screening of an open-captioned version of *Sweet Nothing in My Ear*. (Also pictured is Gallaudet Interpreting Service interpreter Sarah Blatteberg.) (BELOW) Hallmark Movie Channel CEO and President Henry Schlieff (right) poses for a photo with Matlin and President Davila at the reception.

'Deaf World Odyssey' portrays journeys to discovering personal identity

Angela Farrand was born deaf, but she didn't really find out who she was as a deaf person until age 15, when she enrolled at the California School for the Deaf, Fremont. It was there that she discovered many students like herself who had been in an ongoing struggle to know themselves, and finally, in that "safe haven," as she calls it, were able to do so.

Farrand grew up as a confident deaf woman, an educator, a professional actor, and recently served as acting chair of the Theatre Arts Department. But she never forgot her journey, and those of other deaf people, that acquainted them with the deaf world and how each of them fit into it, weaving the rich, colorful tapestry that is the deaf community. Farrand has put together these life experiences into a play she named *Deaf World Odyssey*. She devotes the play to her husband, William, "who struggled for years before arriving at Gallaudet where he finally found himself and his special identity," she said.

Odyssey is described by Farrand as a group of deaf people "on a boat ride together as they embark on a journey to find an identity for themselves." Their parts for the shows recent tour were played by actors Ronald Jiu, Merry Jones, Kaori Takeuchi, Helen Way, Andrew Weidig, Marianna Devenow, Jamaal Johnson, and Jennifer Lash from Gallaudet. The other actors are from Northwestern University—Brenda Guillermo, a visiting student who wants to become an interpreter, and John McGinty, who has an internship at Gallaudet with Dr. Gina Oliva. Farrand directed the play and Dr. Arlene Kelly served as dramaturge, ensuring an accurate depiction of deaf history and culture.

The performance and a workshop that follow were designed for both hearing and deaf audiences, said Farrand. The actors employ pantomime, tableaux, improvisation, and other techniques to tell their stories. The dialogue also covers

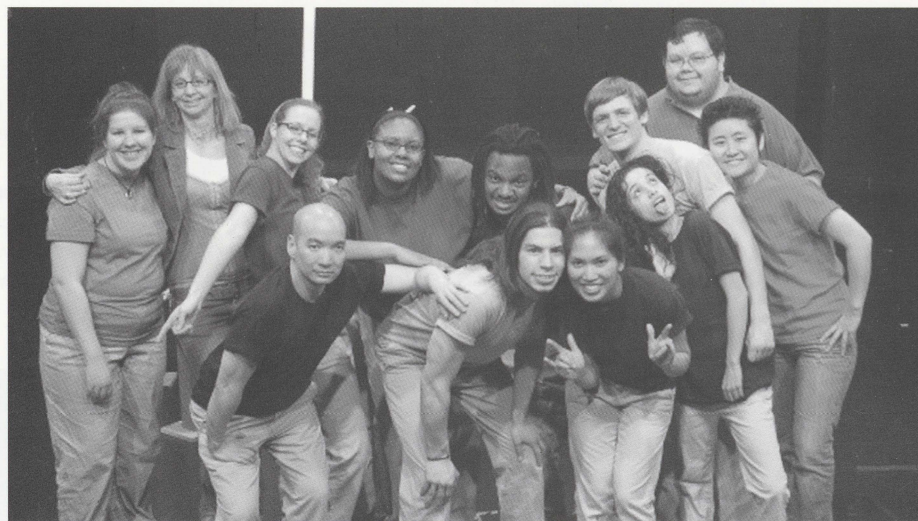
numerous facts of deaf culture, history, education, and American Sign Language. Then in the workshops the actors discuss these facts with the audience and answer questions they might have.

Odyssey opened the first weekend of March at Gallaudet and started touring after spring break, performing at the Maryland School for the Deaf—Columbia and Frederick campuses, Friendly High School in Prince George's County, Md., and at Rockville (Md.) High School.

Farrand said that Gallaudet's Office of Admissions was so impressed with the play and workshop that they are sponsoring it at local schools with mainstreamed programs because it offers a unique way to inform students of the educational opportunities for them at the University.

"It is important to me that deaf people learn about their culture and heritage because it is who they are," said Farrand. "Our deaf children will have more deaf pride and get a better sense of who they are when they understand their heritage." It is also important to her that hearing people "learn about deaf culture and history, not just learn American Sign Language. My aim is to give hearing people an opportunity to really understand the deaf community and see the totality of it." Farrand's hope is that *Odyssey* raises awareness among teachers and other professionals working with deaf people. She hopes that educators realize how important it is for them to include deaf history and culture in their curricula.

Audience reaction has been positive, said Farrand. "Many people, both hearing and deaf, have expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of the program and said they learned quite a bit about deaf culture and history they had not been aware of previously," she said. Deaf people shared with the actors that the experience had increased their pride and understanding of who they are and what it is to be part of the deaf community, and hearing people said they had gained a much broader understanding of the deaf world.



Angela Farrand (second from left) with members of the *Deaf World Odyssey* cast.

"I feel we have accomplished a great deal and that this is just the beginning of this type of outreach and educational program," said Farrand. She added that the Theatre Arts Department plans to continue taking *Odyssey* on the road as part of its community involvement and outreach program, and hopes to identify other plays that can be taken to schools for deaf students and to mainstream schools.

The spring semester marks Farrand's last semester at Gallaudet. "My husband and I considered long and hard about making a change in our lives," she said. "It is one of those bittersweet decisions. I will certainly miss Gallaudet and everyone here, as I have been here for many

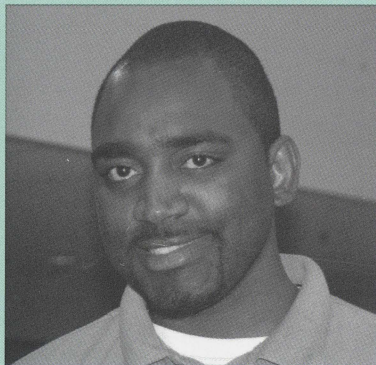
years as a student, staff member, and faculty member." But she explained that she wants more time to be a mother to her children, Abby, 8, and Parker, 3. Farrand plans to continue many of her activities, however. She will maintain her place on the president's advisory board of the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Interactive Drama for Education and Awareness in Schools and provide workshops and training for teachers on integrating drama techniques into the curriculum. "I definitely will stay in contact with everyone [at the University], and I appreciate all that Gallaudet has done for me," she said. "It's a great school, and I will always be grateful for my time here." ■



Dr. David Armstrong, executive director of Gallaudet University Press and External Affairs, recognizes Frances Clark, business coordinator for the press, for 15 years of service to the University.

Roving Reporter

Congratulations on graduating from Gallaudet! What are your future plans?



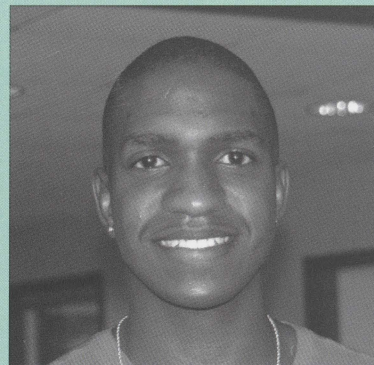
I'll be continuing my M.A. studies in international development at Gallaudet for the next year and a half before I return to Jamaica, where I plan to make an impact on the deaf community there.

Rian Gayle (Kingston, Jamaica), B.S., business administration



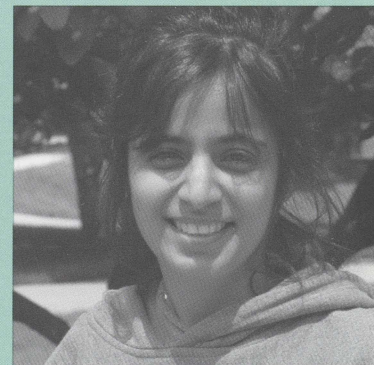
I am going to be a D.C. girl. I will also seek a professional job while working as an ASL teacher at a community college in Virginia.

Brooke Budzinski (New Berlin, Wisc.), M.A., deaf studies, sign language teaching concentration



I am trying to decide which of two job offers to take: one as a statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau here in D.C. or a position with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission in Springfield, Ill.

Brian Lucas (Chicago, Ill.), B.S. business administration



I will do an internship in Pennsylvania this summer. After the internship is over, I plan to move to Boston for a job related to social work or return to school to get my master's in social work.

Salima Ali (Los Angeles, Calif.), B.A., social work, minor in family studies